Name of District		Percentage of learners achieving basic literacy norms
1.	Ratlam	86.46%
2.	Indore	78.90%
3.	Narsinghpur	41.00%
4.	Bilaspur	74.00%
5.	Raipur	82.00%
6.	Durg	72.18%

[English]

Chennai and Calcutta Telecom Circle

808. SHRI A. G. S. RAMBABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer Chennai and Calcutta telecom circles to the Mahanager Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration at present. The question of assigning any additional areas to M/S MTNL would, inter-alia, be linked to issues connected with reorganization/corporatisation of the telecom sector, requiring detailed examination and consultation with the various agencies concerned.

Sinking of Cargo Ships in Sea Near Bombay

809. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) wheter a number of cargo ships have mysteriously sank in the sea near Bombay Port in recent times;

(b) if so, the number of ships that sank during the last one and a half year; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made into the reasons for such a high rate of accident and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) During the last one and a half years, eight cargo ships have sunk/ grounded-3 within Mumbai Port limits for which the Mumbai Port Trust is carrying out preliminary enquiries. Out of 5 other ships which sank outside thhe Mumbai Port limits. Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai has completed preliminary enquiry in 3 cases which indicate that the mishaps happened due to structural failure leading to ingress of water through the shell opening, poor condition of the Vessels and inclement weather conditions. In the other 2 cases, the Directorate is yet to complete the preliminary enquiry.

Postal Week

810. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the Postal Department observed Postal Week form October 9, 1997;

(b) whether the Government are aware that since that date the postmen in Mumbai observed "Work to Rule" whereby the deliveries of postal articles were delayed;

(c) if so, the grievances of the postmen which prompted them to resort to work to rule; and

(d) the steps taken proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the grievances and to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No notice or intimation regarding "Work to Rule" was received by the Maharashtra Postal Circle at the Divisional, Regional or Circle level from any Union/ Staff association. Delivery of mails in Mumbai was normal except in some parts of North-west Postal Division, where there was some accumulation of mails due to heavy receipt of mails during Diwali season.

The Postman in North-West Division had however expressed their grievances about shortage of delivery staff.

(d) The Government has recently sanctioned 125 posts of postman and 12 posts of Sorting Postmen to Mumbai Postal Region. Out of this, 43 posts of Postmen and 4 posts of Sorting Postmen have been allotted to North-West Postal Division.

Tenders invited by Dredging Corporation of India

811. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether on July 19, 1997 tenders were called for from Dredging Corporation of India for 6500 cubic meter hopper capacity trailers suction dredgers;

(b) whether any other company of the world could also take part in the filling of tenders;

(c) whether tender papers were not made available to the Chinese Shipbuilding Trading Company; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As this was a Global Tender, any company in the world who meets the prequalification criteria published in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) could take part in the filling of tenders.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The offer submitted by M/s Chinese Shipbuilding Trading Company was not found in order as regards to the terms and conditions specified in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT).